



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Grosvenor Square
London, England

88-228

June 28, 1978

Re: Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING

On June 22, 1978, Assistant Legal Attaches DENNIS R. DICKSON and ROBERT A. KEANE, traveled to Cambridgeshire, England, to contact Mr. ALEXANDER EIST, Willow Cottage, 9 High Street, West Wratting, Cambridgeshire, England, at his request. EIST is the publican at the "Green Man" pub, Six Mile Bottom, Cambridgeshire, England. EIST advised that he was formerly employed by the Metropolitan Police, London, and has recently retired.

During his employment with the Metropolitan Police, one of his assignments was to guard and escort JAMES EARL RAY who was arrested in London, England, in connection with the assassination of Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING. EIST stated that during the approximately four months when RAY was incarcerated in England awaiting extradition to the United States it was EIST's assignment to be present in the cell with RAY and to escort him weekly to the court for remand hearings.

EIST advised that as a result of having spent so much time with RAY he developed a very close rapport and RAY became very talkative with him. RAY admitted that he had escaped from a Missouri prison by hanging on to the undercarriage of a prison laundry vehicle or garbage truck.

With regard to the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, RAY on many occasions admitted that he killed KING and on no occasion did RAY ever indicate that there was an accomplice with him, but rather he expressed and even bragged that he was proud of the fact that he alone was able to kill KING. RAY stated that the only mistake he made was that upon leaving the boarding house he was carrying the rifle he used to kill KING and spotted a police officer in the area. He subsequently dropped the rifle in the doorway to a shop and continued on his way, knowing full-well that his prints were on the weapon and that the investigation would subsequently lead to him.

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RAY indicated that he was a loner and did not associate with anyone else and that the only person he received assistance from was his brother, believed by EIST to be his elder brother, and according to RAY his brother accompanied him on several robberies subsequent to his escape from the Missouri prison.

EIST stated that he had recently been in conversation with a U. S. Air Force major who is stationed in England and upon hearing that EIST was involved in the RAY case suggested that EIST should sell his story to a newsman. EIST advised that during his assignment with RAY he reported to his superiors any comments made by RAY and thus the appropriate authorities were in possession of all pertinent information. He did not desire to contact any newsmen regarding his story, however, was willing to be interviewed by any official authority regarding his association with RAY in England.

The above interview was conducted by Assistant Legal Attache DENNIS R. DICKSON, in the presence of Assistant Legal Attache ROBERT A. KEANE, on June 22, 1978.